

June 16, 2011

Mr. Julius Genachowski
Chairman
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I've had the privilege of serving the city of Crookston as mayor for the past four and a half years. During my tenure I've seen time and again that technology makes the difference in small communities like ours.

Residents, families, and employers in Crookston depend on reliable wireless connections tremendously for work, school, and safety. Unlike our neighbors in larger cities, smaller communities typically don't enjoy access to the latest and greatest technology. The proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile could change all that.

If this merger is approved, towns like Crookston across Minnesota will have access to a next generation wireless network. Widespread fast wireless connections means faster download speeds for everyone, greater access to educational opportunities for students, and chances for small business owners to compete with big city rivals. The list of possibilities goes on and on.

But on the other hand, AT&T needs to get their house in order too. As you may know AT&T acquired part of Alltel's cellular territory. Over the past few months customers have transitioned over to AT&T's network. There has been a fair amount of complaints of system glitches, poor coverage, and inability to respond to customer needs. Some customers have just chosen to go to a competing carrier, Verizon. But even Verizon has short coming in tower coverage depending on where you live. The lack of competition in this region with only two main cell phone carriers is a concern for the future. Although we need enhancement the merger AT&T/T-Mobile would bring, safe guards in protecting the consumer is important also.

I respectfully ask that you remember that small towns like Crookston have been waiting for this precise opportunity to enjoy the same technology that

larger cities can take for granted. Thank you in advance for supporting the AT&T/T-Mobile merger.

Sincerely,

Mayor Dave Genereux

Crookston, Minnesota